

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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**Contact:**

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P.O. Box 1148  
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Date Issued: 8/20/2012  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

**KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 6 hours from the hours of 3 p.m. Monday, August 20 until 9 p.m. Monday, August 20.

Fishermen are reminded to check with Great Pacific if the buyer needs to shorten the hours they will buy fish because of limited capacity or airline schedules.

During last night's 4 hour fishing period 11 permit holders caught 763 chum salmon. Catches and fishing effort were well below average because of weather. Cumulative catch is now over 217,000 chum salmon and should reach or exceed this season's forecast harvest of 250,000 to 280,000 chum salmon.

Chum salmon catches at the department test fish project on the Kobuk River at Kiana ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> best in the 20-year project history. Test fish operations were terminated August 17<sup>th</sup>. Test fish operations this season were a week shorter than normal because of debris laden and high water conditions prevented the crew from fishing.

Continuing with short duration openings should not jeopardize escapement and allow for subsistence fishing opportunity.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.